

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00986 071245Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 SSM-03
/082 W

-----085920 071332Z /45

R 071211Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9153
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0986

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JO, IS
SUBJ: BETHLEHEM MAYOR DISCUSSES RECENT WEST BANK DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN A RECENT DISCUSSION WITH CONGEN OFFICER,
BETHLEHEM MAYOR FREIJ, A MODERATE WEST BANK
PERSONALITY, TOUCHED ON SEVERAL MATTERS OF
INTEREST INCLUDING STATUS OF WEST BANK MAYORS
POLICY STATEMENT (JERUSALEM 971), RECENT SHIFT
IN ATTITUDE AND TACTICS OF ISRAELI MILITARY
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TOWARD WEST BANK MAYORS, AND
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING FINANCIAL AID TO
WEST BANK CITIES COMING FROM ARAB STATES.

2. WEST BANK MAYORS STATEMENT - ALTHOUGH
DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED BY MAJORITY OF MAYORS,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JERUSA 00986 071245Z

IT HAS BEEN HELD UP BECAUSE AL BIRA OBJECTS TO
SPECIFYING 1967 BORDERS AS ACCEPTABLE GOAL
AND NABLUS HAS SUGGESTED MAINTAINING FORMULATION
OF PLO AS "SOLE" LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF
PALESTINIANS AND WISHES STATEMENT TO CALL FOR
"PEACE WITH JUSTICE." FREIJ PLANS TO GO TO
NABLUS IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO TRY TO OBTAIN

SIGNATURES OF NABLUS AND TWO OTHER NORTHERN TOWNS.

3. MILITARY GOVERNMENT PRESSURE ON THE MUNICIPALITIES - ACCORDING TO FREIJ, THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY MOVED TO RESTRICT THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WEST BANK MAYORS AND DIMINISH THEIR POLITICAL STANDING. THE NEW POLICY IS REFLECTED:

A. BY STRICT ATTENTION TO ANY POLITICAL STATEMENT MADE BY A MAYOR WHICH IS PROMPTLY FOLLOWED BY HARASSING INQUIRIES.

B. BY RESTRICTING TRAVEL OF THE MAYORS ABROAD AND TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WEST BANK (E.G. A DELEGATION FROM JERICHO WAS RECENTLY PREVENTED FROM GOING TO QABATIYAH TO ORANIZE A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN FEUDING CLANS).

C. BY DENYING THE MAYORS DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE WEST BANK MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN BEIT EL, THUS FORCING THEM TO WORK THROUGH THE DISTRICT GOVERNORS WITH A RESULTANT SLOW DOWN IN DOING BUSINESS. FREIJ DESCRIBED THE PRESENT POLICY AS A 180 DEGREE REVERSAL OF THE DAYAN-PERES POLICY OF LOCAL AUTONOMY. THE CHANGE ACTUALLY BEGAN WHEN THE CURRENT ARAB CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JERUSA 00986 071245Z

AFFAIRS ADVISOR MENACHEM MILSON REPLACED AMNON COHEN SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, BUT THE NEW LIKUD GOVERNMENT HAS APPARENTLY ACCEPTED AND ENCOURAGED THIS POLICY. THIS UNHELPFUL CHANGE HAS SERVED TO MOVE FREIJ TOWARDS CONFRONTATION. (" WHAT INCENTIVE DO I HAVE NOW TO CONTINUE A MODERATE POLICY?" HE ASKED) AND, THUS, TO UNITE THE WEST BANK. FREIJ HIMSELF EXPECTS A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION WITH THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND BELIEVES THAT HE IS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN ANY OTHER MAYOR TO FIGHT THE BATTLE BECAUSE OF HIS PAST RECORD OF MODERATION. AS ONE OPTION, FREIJ IS ENTERTAINING THE IDEA OF ASKING FOR A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN WITH WHOM HE HAS A GOOD RELATIONSHIP AND WHOM HE CONSIDERS REASONABLE. DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, WHOM FREIJ MET AT HIS INVESTITURE STRIKES FRIEJ AS BEING BRUSQUE AND STUBBORN.

4. FINANCIAL AID FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES - THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS SET TWO CONDITIONS FOR ALLOWING FINANCIAL AID FROM TWIN CITIES INTO THE WEST BANK. FIRST, PROJECT APPROVAL BY THE MILITARY GOVERN-

MENT AND, SECOND, WRITTEN APPROVAL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN. THE LATTER CONDITION, FRIJ SAYS, IS UNACCEPTABLE TO HIM AND TO THE OTHER MUNICIPALITIES. FREIJ SAYS HE WILL PUBLICLY REJECT IT AND TRY TO BRING MONEY ACROSS TO CONTINUE HIS PROJECTS WITHOUT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL. THIS WILL COMPEL THE ISRAELIS TO USE FORCE TO STOP THE PROJECTS.

5. PRISONERS' STRIKE IN HEBRON - PRISONERS IN THE HEBRON JAIL HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE TO PROTEST BAD LIVING CONDITIONS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS NOW ACCORDING TO FREIJ. (COMMENT: THIS HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED IN THE ARAB PRESS.) THE MILITARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 JERUSA 00986 071245Z

GOVERNOR HAS RETURNED WITHOUT CONSIDERATION A REQUEST BY MAYOR QAWASIMI FOR IMPROVEMENTS. THE MUNICIPALITIES, FREIJ SAYS, ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR BALNKETS, ETC., HOWEVER, THE ISRAELIS REFUSE THIS SOLUTION.
NEWLIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MAYOR, WEST BANK, PERSONAL OPINION, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JERUSA00986
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770241-0415
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770784/aaaacupu.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fa67a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1940792
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BETHLEHEM MAYOR DISCUSSES RECENT WEST BANK DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, JO, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa67a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009